

referring to financial campaign contributors.¹⁶⁶ During testimony, Corcoran said he was not certain that these were the precise words spoken, but believes Kitto and/or O'Connor communicated that his clients were supportive Democrats.¹⁶⁷

Corcoran said that Collier responded to this comment by nodding in a manner that Corcoran believed reflected Collier's understanding. According to Kitto, Collier had been briefed for the meeting, yet he "was not overly sympathetic" to the concerns of the opponent tribes, nor was he "overly concerned about the socio-economic impact this project would have on the surrounding communities."¹⁶⁸ Nonetheless, Kitto reported, Collier did commit (or re-commit) to giving the opponent tribes 30 days in which to submit their economic impact studies. Corcoran's recollection is generally consistent, except that he added that Collier said no decision had been made about the weight to be given to the socio-economic impact on the community.

Collier said that in preparation for the meeting, he talked with his staff to learn generally DOI's procedures and responsibilities in fee-to-trust transfers for gaming purposes and to get a sense of where the Hudson application stood in the process, but he did not learn the specifics of the arguments for or against the application. Collier said he had no recollection of statements at the meeting about the party support or affiliation of the opponents, but would not categorically deny that they were made. Sibbison also did not recall such statements. Collier did not recall making any statement that he and/or Babbitt might make the ultimate decision, and doubts he

¹⁶⁶OIC Interview of Thomas Corcoran, March 16, 1995, at 15.

¹⁶⁷O'Connor does not recall any discussion of the political implications of the matter or the political affiliations of the applicants and opponents.

¹⁶⁸Memo from Larry Kitto and Thomas Corcoran to Lewis Taylor, March 27, 1995.